for establishment of the terminal on Build, Operate and Transfer basis.

Allotting a berth for unloading cement at Cochin Port Trust

718. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin Port Trust accepted the bid to allot a berth for unloading the cement and recommended to Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government rejected the recommendations of the Cochin Port Trust; and

(d) if so, the reasons for rejecting the proposal after it was approved by the Ministry earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cochin Port Trust have forwarded two proposals for setting up of Cement Unloading and Packaging Terminals on the basis of offers received in response to Press Advertisement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Project has been turned down in view of the environmental consideration and objections from the State Government.

Extension of National Highway No. 8A

719. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand for the extension of National Highway No. 8A from Gandhidham to Jakhau via Mundra and Mandvi port in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been a demand from Hon'ble Member of Parliament for extending NH No. 8-A from Gandhidham onwards to Jakhau via Mundra and Mandvi Port. However, no such proposal has come from the State Government.

(c) and (d) As and when such proposal is received from the State Government, the same would be considered alongwith the proposals of other States subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority.

Allocation of Funds to Maharashtra From CRF

720. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the accruals of Central Road Fund (CRF) on the basis of consumption of petrol for the last three years for Maharashtra and actual allocations made to the state from CRF during the said period, year-wise;

(b) the present balance share of the State in that regard; and

(c) by when the entire share of CRF of Maharashtra is to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The share/allocation of funds during the last three years of Maharashtra is as under:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs) Tentative Accruals	Allocation
1995-96	270.34	172.00
1996-97	270.34	62.00
1997-98	270.34	63.00

(b) Rs. 1293.63 lakhs.

(c) The balance share would be released after schemes sent by the State Government are sanctioned, subject to the availability of funds.

Non-Lifting of Cargo from Major Ports

721. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that in most of the major ports in the country cargo has piled up due to non-lifting of the same which is causing problems for the cargo handling at the ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof port-wise as on date and quantity of cargo in each port which has not been lifted for more than two months; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken to decongest the major ports from accumulated cargo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise. However, the major port trusts have been taking action to dispose off the unclaimed & uncleared cargo after expiry of 60 days as per the provisions of Major Port Trust Act, 1963.

Expansion of Highways in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Assam

722. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: the details of steps taken/contemplated by Government for improvement and expansion of National Highways passing through Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): The improvement of existing National Highways and declaration of new roads as National Highways, is a continuous process depending on the availability of funds. During the year 1997-98 funds for development to the tune of Rs. 25.50 crores, Rs. 17.00 crores and Rs. 18.21 crores were allocated to the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Assam respectively. Also 170 Kms, 434 Kms and 66 Kms have been declared as new National Highways during the year 1997-98 for these States. As the Budget for the year 1998-99 is yet to be approved by the Parliament, the programme for development cannot be decided.

Pathkar on four lane highways

723. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to levy "Pathkar on four lane highways";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) for which purpose the fund so collected would be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government has decided to levy user fee on four lane highways as follows:

Type of Vehicle	Rs./Km.
(i) Car/Jeep/Van	0.40
(ii) LCV	0.70
(iii) Truck/Buses	1.40
(iv) Heavy construction machinery & earth moving equipment	3.00

(c) Funds so collected will be utilised for maintenance and development of National Highways.

Implementation of "Rest Areas" concept in Andhra Pradesh

724. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India has totally ignored the concept of "Rest Areas" in various road development programmes in Andhra Pradesh;